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Yale School of Nursing

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Yale University School of Nursing

ALUMNAE BULLETIN

Vol. VI, No. 12

New Haven, Connecticut

Fall, 1954

FROM OUR DEAN

Recently the Registrar drew up a chart covering the past several years and indicating the number of applications to YSN, those accepted for admission and the number actually enrolled each year. There seems to be a definite downward trend which is unfortunate for several reasons. The lessening number of inquiries indicates that we are failing to get across to college women the desirability of nursing preparation at Yale. As an administrator, I am forced to think in terms of income from tuition because, although no budget can be balanced from this source alone, there may be a limit to the deficit which the University feels able to cover for any one of its schools.

I am stating this rather bluntly because, while we are not unmindful of our responsibilities here at the school, I believe that our alumnae are our best salesmen. Some of you, I know, have talked about nursing at various colleges and we usually get results when you do this. But how many of you are sufficiently enthusiastic about nursing and Yale to talk it up to the young people of your acquaintance and to their parents? If you are keeping up with the current literature, you know that the field of nursing is unfolding rapidly and that more and more well prepared teachers, administrators and research workers are woefully needed. Certainly YSN has a responsibility to offer preparation for such positions of leadership, as well as to prepare good nurses. We have managed to bring the faculty salaries up to a respectable level, and we have an excellent faculty. We cannot cut expenses in this area. But with the present faculty and facilities we believe that 60 students should be admitted each year, instead of the 43 of this fall. In other words, we are operating at about three-quarters of our capacity. Will you help us with the fourth quarter?

To reassure you that the burden is not all on your shoulders, I am happy to report

a very successful "Open House" held on October 16. Taking advantage of National Nurse Week, when there was more than the usual emphasis on nursing, we invited college students, graduates and counselors to spend a day with us. Twenty-one prospective students, from eleven different colleges (from Bates and Colby in Maine to Swarthmore in Pennsylvania), and counselors from three colleges, accepted the invitation. The program started with registration and coffee in Brady, and a brief talk by the Dean on the purposes of YSN. The guests then moved to Howard-3 where students demonstrated various aspects of the art of nursing. A rooming-in unit, an isolette in action, a patient in an oxygen mask, another having a shampoo in bed, another learning to walk with leg braces and still another being taught how to give himself insulin by the public health nurse, with students serving as both patients and nurses—all were in the act. After lunch in the hospital dining room, with students again as hostesses, we had a film program in Brady, showing one of the Careers films, some slides of student life at YSN, and the Preparation for Childbirth film which was made here in our hospital. Faculty and students worked hard to make the day a success, and the guests seemed to enjoy it. They all expressed their appreciation of this opportunity, and we plan to have similar occasions in the future.

Elizabeth S. Byler

Dean

CAPTAIN DRUSILLA POOLE, A.N.C.

"When I was a little girl in Nashville, Tenn., I wanted to do three things when I grew up—become a nurse, go to China, and join the Army. Now I have done all three!" These were the thoughts of Captain Drusilla Poole, as she graduated September 24 from a Medical Field Service School course for new officers at Brooke

THE BULLETIN BOARD

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Elizabeth Simmons '29

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Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The Army Medical Service has been one of her goals since childhood, and she held fast to this ambition even while teaching nursing procedures under the hostile eyes of Chinese Communist soldiers.

Captain Poole brings to the Army not only seven years of nursing experience but also a first-hand knowledge of the nature of Communism. While the Reds were ousting the Nationalists from China, she was chief of the nursing service at Yale-in-China, a medical center in Hunan Province which was largely supported by alumni and students of Yale University. Before Captain Poole could leave the Far East, she was forced into virtual imprisonment by the Communists.

"I had wanted to go to China ever since I heard a missionary speak when I was four years old. I majored in social work at Scarritt College in Nashville and did interracial work after I graduated in 1942. I thought I would need this background in order to work with the Chinese. I got a Master of Nursing degree in 1947 from the Yale School of Nursing, and there I heard of Yale-in-China. It had 700 student nurses and doctors and operated a 350-bed hospital. I knew that I wanted to go there, so waited until April 1948, when there was a vacancy for an American."

Meanwhile, the Communists were on the move, and on Thanksgiving Day Captain Poole and other Americans were evacuated to Shanghai.

"But I had been in China just a short time. I had no strings attached, and I knew a few people had been able to continue their work under the Communists. So I flew back to Hsiang-ya. I'll never be sorry that I did because I had a year of good work left. The American consul

washed his hands of me, though. I had returned in December. The Communists didn't arrive until August 1949, but they had been camped outside the city since June. It was a quiet change; the Nationalists walked out and the Communists walked in. We had to register and obey the same regulations the Chinese people did. We had to get a permit to go from one part of the city to another, and finally it got so it wasn't worth spending four hours at a police station to get permission to visit friends. We had to get a permit to go out to dinner. The police checked our quarters several times a week to make sure we were where we were supposed to be. Communist soldiers audited my classes and you never knew whether they spoke English or not. In December 1949 everything began to clamp down. I was told to teach only three hours a week. Demonstrations took place almost hourly on the streets, and I was hit by mud and rocks. Then my students were black-listed because they had a foreign teacher. When I realized I was an embarrassment to my friends, I asked to leave. That was in February 1950. They told me to stay away from the hospital and school. My application was refused. There were hours and hours of questioning. Wait, wait, and wait—then suddenly a man came and told me I could go."

Captain Poole returned to freedom in June 1950,—the month war broke out in Korea. She was the next to the last American to leave Yale-in-China.

"The Communists are Masters as far as infiltration, propaganda methods, and organization are concerned," she says. "Communism is a form of hypnosis, and it's a terrific threat to our way of life. The Chinese always believed that the only good government was one that couldn't be heard, seen, tasted, or smelled. Now they have accepted a regime that is ever present in every way. In Hong Kong, Ceylon, Bombay—the music, the placards, the signs, the speeches were all the same as in China. And the people didn't know what was going on. After a while, after so much of the constant repetition, it gets so you can't think."

"I wouldn't live through my experience in China again for anything," she concludes, "but I have never been sorry I went

back. I love the Chinese people, and they are wonderful students."

To get her "feet on the ground again," before joining the Army Nurse Corps, Captain Poole held teaching and supervisory posts at Grace-New Haven Hospital, Fitchburg-Burbank Hospital, Fitchburg, Mass., and Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, Ga. She is now on duty at the William Beaumont Army Hospital, El Paso, Texas.

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE A.W.G. FUND CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

\$238 is a startling amount of money! Some of us are unable to contribute this sum personally. Here are some suggestions for fund raising which you might attempt individually. There are many more possibilities. We would greatly appreciate having you share your ideas with us.

1. Donations, tax deductible gifts from self, friends, or business associates.

2. Tea or coffee parties, with invited guests making donations. If one person invites 16 to tea and each of the 16 in turn invites 8 for coffee and each of the 8 invites 4, each guest contributing 50¢, the A.W.G. Fund will be richer by \$328.

3. Proceeds from projects like baby-sitting, furniture sales, Christmas cards, candy, baked goods, magazines.

4. Work in your local hospital during critical periods of shortage, such as holidays, vacations, illness, etc., donating proceeds to the Fund. Remember time is money!

5. Take in a roomer.

6. Typing.

7. Proceeds from articles published, or royalties on books.

Fund raising can also be a coöperative venture among alumnae who enjoy getting together. Here are some additional suggestions for group activities. You will think of other possibilities.

1. Rummage sales.

2. Book sales.

3. Card parties.

4. Cake sales.

5. PRN staff nursing.

6. Baby-sitting pledges.

7. Coffees or teas, each one attending to have one for another group.

8. Theater parties.

9. Hobby shows.

10. "Stay-at-home nights," members contributing money saved.

11. Present a play.

12. Benefit dance.

13. Fashion show.

NEW HAVEN REGIONAL

The New Haven Regional Group met at Nathan Smith Hall, September 8, 1954. Miss Evelyn Sturmer spoke on Nursing in Caracas, Venezuela.

The PRN Staff Nursing Campaign sponsored by this group is making progress. Nurses have pledged to do PRN duty on free time, contributing their earnings to the A.W.G. Fund. The hospital does the bookkeeping for the project and will, next spring, present to the Fund a check for the accumulated amount.

It is hoped that this idea may be adapted for use in other communities, both for the benefit of the A.W.G. Fund and the alleviation of nursing shortages.

INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOLISM

Last summer the School of Nursing, with the Yale Center of Alcohol Studies, co-sponsored an Institute on Alcoholism for nurses. There were 119 registrants, one coming from as far away as California, for the two and a half day institute. In this brief period of time they had a concentrated dose of the social, psychological, personal, physiological, medical and nursing problems of the alcoholic. It was the first such Institute to be held for nurses and in spite of the heat of late July it was most successful.

IN MEMORIAM

Jane Holden, Class of 1937, died in Chicago July 6, 1954, of generalized cancer.

WEDDINGS

'44. Constance Bancroft to Adam James Thomas, July 3, 1954.

'50. Mary Jane Mickle to William L. Winfrey, August 17, 1954.

'50. Isabel Wolfshaut to Milton Field.

'51. Mary Nowack to Robert Badalian, September 25, 1954.

'51. Jo Ann Selleck Taylor to Robert B. Woolsey, August 22, 1954.

'52. Estelle Miller to Richard Carlson, May 1954.

'52. Ellen Peck to Frederick Powell, June 16, 1954.

'54. Margretta M. Madden to Frederick Douglas Styles, September 4, 1954.

'54. Louisa Urey to Edward J. Murray, September 18, 1954.

BIRTHS

'36. To Mr. and Mrs. Vincent P. O'Brien (Virginia Loupret) a son, Robert Vincent, September 12, 1954.

'44. To Mr. and Mrs. Edmond J. Holderman (Eleanore Wearne) a daughter, Lois Eleanore, July 20, 1954.

'45. To Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Pearce, Jr. (Margaret Perry) a daughter, Barbara Louise, October 9, 1954.

'47. To Mr. and Mrs. Myron Davis (Dorothy Porter) a son, Myron Laurence, October 17, 1954.

'47. To Dr. and Mrs. George J. Friou (Carolyn Friou) a third daughter, Sally, in May 1954. Carolyn writes that Ollie Friou has another boy.

'47. To Dr. and Mrs. George F. Par-ton, Jr. (Phyllis Burdett) a daughter, October 1954.

'47. To Mr. and Mrs. Meade T. Hargiss (Clarice Hargiss) a daughter, Kathleen Louise, September 10, 1954.

'47W. To Dr. and Mrs. James F. Cooney (Rosemary Kuhn) a daughter, Rosemary, July 17, 1954.

'50. To Dr. and Mrs. Bradford S. Col-well (Mary Cushman) a daughter, Mary Spencer, August 10, 1954.

'50. To Mr. and Mrs. J. Campbell Brandon (Helen Stevens) a son, J. Campbell III, April 13, 1953.

'51. To Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Lyons, III (Mary McClellan) a daughter, Ann Hamilton, April 15, 1954. Mary Demeter is 2 years old.

'53. To Dr. and Mrs. Willard F. Greenwald (Shirley Johnson) a daughter, Cynthia Anne, July 5, 1954.

'53. To Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Masterson (Peggy Banzhoff) a son, Gregory Donald, February 8, 1954.

NOTES

Mary Curtis '31 is conducting a survey of unemployed nurses in and around New Haven to ascertain whether arrangements can be made to help make it possible for them to work on part-time schedules in the Hospital.

Margaret Birchard Fillmore '36 writes, from 4921 Strathmore Avenue, Kensington, Md., that she has just renewed acquaintance after 18 years with Laura Rounds Bloom '35 and finds that they have two girls, age 12, two boys, age 9, and Laura has an extra boy of 11. She says, "I am the Girl Scout leader of our girls' troop, her husband, the Cub Scout leader for the boys. We have lots in common and enjoy being near Washington, D. C. and near each other."

Ruth Ogden '37 is Director of Nursing at the Ellis Hospital, Schenectady, N. Y.

Charlotte Burton Sparling '46W (Mrs. Richard I.) is a patient at Broad Acres Sanatorium, Walker Road, Utica, N. Y.

Esther Luttrul '49 is a medical missionary in charge of a hospital in the Belgian Congo. Her address is: Murore Ruyigi, Usumbura, Urundi, Congo Belge, Africa.

NEWS FROM THE NEW HAVEN UNIT

Tompkins 4 is no longer a pediatric section. but accommodates adult surgical cases. Howard 2 (Isolation) has moved to Fitkin 4. Winchester 3 (old Private Pavilion) is now a dormitory for graduate nurses, providing single and double rooms, a kitchen and a laundry. Patients (Metabolism and Isolation) occupy the first two floors of this building.

PRESENT ADDRESSES UNKNOWN

Dorothy Hart Lang '45.

Margaret Leach Schleske '45 (Mrs. Edward).

Jean Ball Trumpp '46W (Mrs. Theodore F.).

Nancy Alley '53.

Gloria Rea '53.

Betty Simmons says "thank you" to alumnae for their double-post-card response to requests for information for the Directory.

A 1954 contribution to the YSN Alumnae Association makes you eligible to receive a copy of the complete directory to be published in December 1954.



Sec. 34.66, P. L. & R.

Mrs. Ernest W. Skilton
Lakeside
Conn.

